In the Claims:

The list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the incidence of adhesions in a body cavity, comprising introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to reduce the incidence of said adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other, and wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution in the body cavity and further remains in the body cavity for at least 2 days.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is allowed to remain in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is allowed to remain in the body cavity over the period during which fibrin exudation is at a maximum.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition remains in the body cavity for a period of up to 7 to 8 days in order to allow restoration of non-stick surfaces.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is applied to the peritoneal cavity in a volume in the range of 500-2000 ml.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 30 wherein the composition is applied to the peritoneal cavity in a volume in the range of 1000 ml-1500 ml.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 2.5-18 % weight to volume of the composition.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 3-5 % weight to volume of the composition.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to either Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % weight to volume of the composition.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the concentration range of the dextrin is selectively altered over a period of time.

36-44. (Canceled)